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PENCE PAYS TRIBUTE TO REAGAN ON HOUSE FLOOR

Washington, Jun 9, 2004 - (Photo: Pence family watches Pres. Reagan's State Funeral procession)

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Mike Pence gave the following remarks today on the House floor in memory of President Ronald Reagan:

“Ronald Reagan will be remembered as a great man and a great American leader. He personified and advanced the highest ideals of the American people at home and abroad.

“After eight years of his presidency, the communism of Soviet Russia was collapsing, the American military was rebuilt, the nation’s economy restored and its moral fabric renewed.

“Many remember him as the ‘Great Communicator.’ But as the President said many times, he wasn’t a great communicator, he communicated great things.

“Those were the traditional American values of this Midwesterner turned national leader. They came from the profound Christian faith inculcated in a young Dutch Reagan by his beloved mother Nelle, and from his heart. And, as the President said, ‘they came from the heart of a great nation.’

“Those ideas were simple, straightforward and distinctly American. President Reagan believed that freedom depended on limited government. He fiercely advanced the principles of less government, less taxes, a strong military and a commitment to traditional moral values.

“And President Reagan changed the course of my life. While youthful ambition led me to politics, it was the voice and the values of Ronald Reagan that made me a Republican. The Bible says, ‘If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?’

“Ronald Reagan's great gift was to sound a clear call to return our nation to the ideals of its founders.

“It was said that when he spoke, people didn’t just agree. From coffee shops to tractor seats to high offices in tall buildings, when American people heard Reagan speak, they said, ‘darn right!’

“I had the privilege in 1988 as a candidate for Congress to sit with the President in the Blue Room of the White House and speak to him personally.

“And on that occasion, that great privilege of my life, I was able to look the President in the eye as he asked me how my campaign was going.

“I said, ‘Mr. President, it’s going fine, but I just want to thank you for everything you’ve done for our country and to encourage my generation of Americans to believe in this country again.’

“I said then, and I say again, ‘Thank you Mr. President. May God bless you as through you, God most certainly blessed the United States of America.’”

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